DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

□ 385 North Arrowhead Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 - (909) 884-4056

☐ 1647 East Holt Boulevard - Ontario, CA 91761 - (909) 458-9673

☐ 13911 Park Avenue - Victorville, CA 92392 - (760) 243-3773

☐ San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
2355 East 5th Street - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0064 - (909) 388-4600

JAMES A. FELTEN, MPA Public Health Director

ERIC K. FRYKMAN, MD, MPH, MBA Health Officer

DANIEL J. AVERA, REHS Chief of Environmental Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 5, 2005 PHD# 05-57 CONTACT: James A. Felten Public Health Director (909) 387-9146

ABC RESTAURANT GRADING SYSTEM ONE YEAR LATER

Since October 1, 2004 when the San Bernardino County grading ordinance went into effect, seventeen cities have adopted the ordinance, thus requiring restaurants and other food facilities in those cities to visibly post the letter grade card. Grand Terrace was the first city to adopt the ordinance, with Hesperia being the latest. "We're hoping the rest of the cities follow suit and adopt the ordinance," said James Felten, Public Health Director.

Also on October 1, 2004 restaurant inspection scores began posting on the Environmental Health Services website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs. "This site is one of the most popular ones on the whole County web site," said Mr. Felten. "The public had been wanting this information for quite some time and we are pleased with their positive response." Web site visitors can view all inspection scores of each restaurant since October 1, 2004.

Another positive response to the ABC grading program was from the restaurant owners and managers. Most accepted and embraced the program with few complaints. Owners who receive an A are very proud to prominently display their grade. However, if the owner is unhappy with a B grade, he has the option of making the changes noted on the inspection report and asking for a rescore inspection. Other restaurants opt to live with a B grade until their next regular inspection.

Another feature of the web site is the restaurant online complaint form. A designated program manager reads the complaints and forwards them to the proper supervisor for action.

Residents who reside in cities that have not adopted the County grading ordinance might want to contact their city council members and encourage them to schedule reading and study sessions.

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